

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

14 JUL 1982

Mr. D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Main Justice Building
Room 2107
10th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Jensen:

The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) has asked me to respond to your letter of 29 June 1982 concerning the possibility of establishing a special protective unit within the U.S. Marshals Service to provide physical protection to certain federal officials. [REDACTED]

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I appreciate your concern that no federal agency has been given the express authority to provide physical protection to certain federal officials. Establishment of a special protective unit within the U.S. Marshals Service may be a possible solution in selected instances. [REDACTED]

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Our current authority to protect Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel may be found in a recent amendment to section 5 of the CIA Act of 1949. This amendment authorizes the CIA to provide its personnel with armed protection. The amendment was enacted in December 1981 to clarify the CIA's authority in this area. Prior to the enactment of these provisions, the CIA protected its personnel as described in the enclosed hearing transcript (Hearing before the Subcommittee on Legislation of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth Congress, First Session, April 4, 1979). [REDACTED]

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Historically, the highly sensitive nature of the classified information and activities attendant to the position of the DCI and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (DDCI) has dictated that they be provided physical protection and that the protective staff assigned to those individuals be composed of

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career CIA security officers. The duties of this staff go beyond the basic responsibility of physical protection and include administrative support tasks demanding comprehensive knowledge of CIA functions and disciplines. Since 1 January 1981, a staff of six to ten officers has been assigned this protective responsibility on a full-time basis. Additionally, officers stationed at domestic security field offices may be assigned temporary protective duties when the DCI or DDCI visit their respective locales.

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With respect to the remaining questions raised in your letter, the CIA has not undertaken to protect any federal officials other than the DCI and DDCI from 1 January 1981 to the present, nor has the CIA received a request for such protection. Moreover, no CIA employee has been granted Special Deputy Marshal status during this period; such status would be inappropriate in light of the provision of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, which prohibits the CIA from having any police or law enforcement powers. []

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I hope that you find this of some value in deciding how best to resolve the protection problem for other federal officials.

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Sincerely,

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Director of Security

Enclosure

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